

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the previous Abstract with the following redlined Abstract:

~~The present invention concerns a~~ A switching apparatus having an actuating shaft, an actuator, at least one switch and a housing. A switching apparatus is in the form of at least one actuating guide which is connected with a first actuating guide portion to the actuating shaft and which with a second actuating guide portion at least partially embraces the actuating shaft at a predetermined spacing, wherein provided on the convex side of the second actuating guide portion is an actuating track for the switch or switches, insofar as at at least one predetermined position the spacing between the outer peripheral edge and the actuating shaft is greater for a predetermined arcuate dimension than at other positions of the second actuating guide portion.